

## Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 007981

O 020448Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1343

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

INFO COMUSK IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 8064

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: MND WARNING TO NORTH KOREA

REF: A) SEOUL 8061; B) UNC 011425Z DEC 73; C) SEOUL 8063

1. SUMMARY: MND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE HE ERRONEOUSLY STATED ROK ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALERT. MND SOURCE STATES THAT PRESS REPORTS SOMEWHAT DISTORTED. HE SAID MND YU HAD MEANT INSTEAD THAT SOME PRECAUTIONARY STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN BUT NOT THAT THERE HAD BEEN MAJOR CHANGE IN READINESS. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF DEFENSE YU CHAE-HUNG ANNOUNIRD AT PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING DEC 1 THAT ALL KOREA V ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALERT OVER RECENT NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS IN YELLOW SEA. YU STATED THAT IN ADDITION ROK NAVY HAS INCREASED OPERATIONS VICINITY FIVE ROK YELLOW

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SEA ISLANDS IN ORDER TO BLOCK FURTHER NORTH

KOREAN VIOLATIONS OF TERRITORIAL WATERS. HE WARNED THAT ROKG WOULD TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION IF NORTH KOREA CONTINUES PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES.

3. YU EXPRESSED FEAR CONTINUED VIOLATIONS COULD MAKE "ARMED CONFRONTATION INEVITABLE." HE SAID THAT ROK NAVY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH US NAVY FOR ALL OPERATIONS IN CONNECTION NORTH KOREAN INCURSIONS.

4. DEFENSE MINISTER LISTED RECENT INCIDENTS AND SPECULATED THAT NORTH KOREAN AIM MAY BE TO SECURE SEA ROUTE TO HAEJU PORT, HE DECLARED THAT ROK ACTIONS WOULD BE CAUTIOUS AND THAT MOFA MAKING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO DISSUADE NORTH FROM PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE MND YU'S "ANNOUNCEMENT", ROK FORCES DID NOT GO ON ALERT. REF B. REPORTS PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MND AND UNC SENIOR OFFICERS BEFORE HIS APPEARANCE AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS BRIEFING. AS PARA 6 REF B. INDICATES, MND YU DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF INCREASED MILITARY PRECAUTIONS WITH UNC. WE SUSPECT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENT WAS IN EQUAL PARTS DESIGNED TO WARN NORTH AND TO IMPRESS ROK PUBLIC.

6. IN MEETING OF SENIOR UNC OFFICERS AND ROK MILITARY OFFICIALS EVENING OF DEC 1 ROK SIDE DID EXPRESS STRONG DESIRE FOR INCREASED STATE OF READINESS IN REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN MAC MEETING DEMANDS RE TERRITORIAL WATERS. HOWEVER, AS PARA 3 OF REF C. NOTES UNC OFFICERS MODERATED ORIGINAL MND/JCS REACTION AND UNC FORCES HAVE CONTINUED TO REMAIN IN NORMAL STATE OF READINESS.

7. ACCORDING MND VICE MINISTER CHAE KWANG-SU, MND YU'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS WERE SOMEWHAT DISTORTED IN REPORTING. CHAE SAID MND MEANT TO

CONVEY FACT THAT CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY STEPS WERE  
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BEING TAKEN BUT NOT THAT THERE WAS MAJOR CHANGE  
IN READINESS.  
UNDERHILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY PLANS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** A) SEOUL 8061; B) UNC 011425Z DEC 73, ; C) SEOUL 8063  
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**Subject:** MND WARNING TO NORTH KOREA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, KS, KN, (YU CHAE-HUNG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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